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LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you, and through you the other members of the Security Council, of Ethiopia's intention to invade my country, the State of Eritrea.

While addressing a meeting of Ethiopians residing in and around Washington on Sunday, 14 June 1998, Ethiopia's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tekeda Alemu, revealed that his Government's intentions included the invasion of the Eritrean Port of Assab. He stated the following:

> "The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea will be raised at the Security Council on the basis of the four-point recommendations [the United States of America-Rwanda proposal] of the facilitators. The Government of the United States and the international community are on our side, and we are certain that the Security Council resolution will be supportive of Ethiopia. This will allow us to take any action we want on the Eritrean leader, as he will have been portrayed as Saddam Hussein, and on Eritrea. The Port of Assab will fall into our hands in the next few days."

These comments from a senior Ethiopian official demonstrate the sinister designs of the Government of Ethiopia to secure United Nations legitimacy for invading a sovereign State.

I have also the honour to transmit a statement issued today, 22 June, by the Ministry of Information and Culture of the State of Eritrea in Asmara concerning the continuing ordeal of Eritrean nationals being expelled from Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 22 June 1998 by the Ministry of Information and Culture of Eritrea

Ethiopia continues its inhumane expulsion of Eritrean nationals

Another 111 Eritreans expelled from Ethiopia arrived in the border town of Om-Hager yesterday evening, Sunday, 21 June 1998. Initial reports indicate that about 50 of them had been detained for weeks in small dungeons and airtight containers, causing them serious physical harm. Two hundred and fifty others are on their way and will be arriving in Asmara this evening. This puts the total number of arrivals to date at 1,081. Meanwhile, the 720 Eritreans who were summarily expelled from Addis Ababa and other towns in Ethiopia early last week arrived in Asmara on Saturday, 20 June, amid a tumultuous welcome from the residents. All have harrowing stories to tell, most having been rounded up, either at their places of work or from their homes in the morning hours. Many were not allowed to say goodbye to their loved ones left behind. A mother of three small children who had left her young children in her locked home, was arrested in downtown Addis Ababa. She was distraught for the entire journey, which took three days. Many of these people are ordinary businessmen, more than 60 years of age, who have lived in Ethiopia for most of their lives.